

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Office of the State Fire Marshal

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August 19, 2004

For Immediate Release

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Washington State Patrol - Office of the State Fire Marshal Releases 2003 Fire in Washington Report

Chief Lowell M. Porter announced today that the 2003 Fire in Washington Report is now available on-line at www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/nfirs.htm. The annual report is a summary of the incident information as reported by 344 of the 535 fire agencies in Washington – including Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, and Spokane. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, in partnership with the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs, is pleased with the commitment fire agencies have made toward data collection, as demonstrated by the 26% increase in reporting agencies in 2003.

In 2003, fire agencies reported more than 28,000 fires which resulted in more than \$135 million in dollar loss. During this same time period, 43 fatalities were reported as a result of fire. With smoking continuing to be the leading cause of fire fatalities in the state, the Washington State Patrol encourages all people to practice fire safety where we live, work, and play. To learn more about fire safety, please visit the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Web site at www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on "State Fire Marshal."

For more information on fire statistics in Washington, please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal at (360) 753-0400.

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